

## The Progressive Farmer.

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RALEIGH, N. C., AUG. 18, 1887.

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### ENDORSED BY THE CONVENTION.

The following resolution was passed by the Farmers' Mass Convention in Raleigh, January 26th, 1887:

Resolved, That THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER, published by L. L. Polk, Winston, N. C., be declared the Official Organ of the North Carolina Farmers' Association, and that its Editor, L. L. Polk, be admitted to the privileges of the floor as an honorary member of this Convention.

We ask every Grange and Farmers' Club in the State to send us at once, the number of members in the organization, together with the name and post-office address of each officer.

### PLEASE NOTICE.

In writing to this office to change the address of a paper, our subscribers will do us a favor by stating the office at which the paper is received, as well as the one to which it is desired to be sent. Failure to do this puts us to a great deal of trouble and the necessity of going through a long list of names, involving not only much work, but much loss of time, when time is valuable.

### SUBSCRIBERS, READ THIS.

Is there a Cross Mark on the margin of your paper? We adopt this as the simplest and easiest method of informing our patrons that their terms of subscription have expired, and that the paper will be stopped if we do not hear from you. We know "times are hard" on everybody, and especially is this true of newspapers, and particularly agricultural papers. But we must help each other as best we can. If, therefore, you are not prepared to renew for the whole year, renew for a part of the time, and this will enable you to have time to make us up a club, for which you will get the paper one year free of charge. So if you see the Cross Mark, let us hear from you.

### EARLY CROPS FOR GREEN FEED.

The time is rapidly approaching for the pitching of crops for early green feed. So little attention is paid to this most valuable assistant to the farmer in our State that we wish to put forth at least one honest effort to change the custom in this respect. Too many are depending wholly upon the western crop of hay for feed during the spring and early summer, while they might, with little labor and less expense, furnish themselves all they need for this purpose. And so long as our feed houses and barns, as well as our smoke-houses, are in the West, we need not expect times to get much better, nor money matters to be much easier.

And now is the time to begin to turn things to account. The crops are "laid by" and we are all at leisure. Unless we avail ourselves of this opportunity, we shall lose much. Our fodder crops will soon need attention, and then the tobacco, cotton, rice, &c., will rise up and cry aloud to us for some considerable part of our attention, and we shall have lost the opportunity.

Only a few acres will be necessary to furnish sufficient "stuff" to feed a good number of horses and cattle during that most trying season of the year—the spring—if the proper attention is given these acres. They should be highly manured, thoroughly ploughed and pulverized with a good

harrow, and then, as soon as the proper time comes, sowed thick with good rye. And this should be done early enough to give the young grain ample time to spring up, take good root and begin to grow before the first heavy frost or freeze. By this means a good protection is furnished to prevent the cold from killing it out.

Another good coat of manure and lime, or lime-phosphate, during the latter part of the winter will only tend to make the crop more valuable and give the better assurance of a much earlier cutting.

As soon as the rye begins to joint in the spring, we should begin to cut and use it as needed. And the most economical way of doing this is with a reap-hook. Of course this would prove rather tedious upon large farms where large quantities of rye are sowed. By the time the crop is cut over once, the second crop will be almost or quite ready for use. The writer has cut as many as three excellent crops from the same land in one spring, and then had the last one off early enough for a crop of another kind.

No one, who has not made the experiment, can at all appreciate the wonderful importance of this early feed crop. In fact, you will be astonished if you will give it a thorough trial. We wish to see more of our farmers try this experiment. But we would give this note of warning you must not wait until the rye is fully headed, or you will get only one crop. You should begin early enough to have cut nearly over the first time before the grain is fully headed. Another suggestion: You need not expect much of a second and third crop unless the land is well manured.

The majority of those who breed fowls for both pleasure and profit will have a season of comparative rest, relieved from their cares and labors consequent upon tending to the wants of the young broods and their hen mothers. But in the meantime the enterprising and ambitious breeder will find something to do about making arrangements for the accommodation of the young stock that are to be kept over until the next spring or time of sale. This month brings with it high anticipations of success or discouraging results. The number, size and quality of the young chickens as they pass in review must surely be gratifying to the successful breeder, while the one who looks sadly on the few straying ones left after the season's hatch should not be discouraged but try the harder that he does not lose them. This month lice multiply with astonishing rapidity. If we wish to bring our young stock through this season without encountering the enemy, we must not let them get a foothold on their bodies nor in the fowl house, for if once obtained they cling most persistently until powerful measures are brought to bear against them. The poultry houses should be whitewashed inside and out with one-half pint crude carbolic acid to each bucketful white wash; kerosene oil should be poured over the roosts to kill any vermin which may be there, and if the legs of the fowls have become scaly pour kerosene over them twice a week removed. If nest boxes are used they should be whitewashed inside and out and clean new hay or straw put in them. If the fowls appear to be lousy, feed them once or twice a week with tablespoonful of powdered sulphur to each quart of meal. If the whitewash, kerosene and sulphur does not destroy them, then use Persian insect powder (which can be bought at any drug store) once or twice a month by dusting or rubbing; if in among the feathers, the powders will always kill them if rubbed in and down to the feathers.

Revenge is a debt, in the paying of which the greatest knave is honest and sincere, and so far as he is able, punctual. —Colton

### GREEN MANURING.

This is the season for our farmers to avail themselves of this very valuable mode of fertilization. Many are busy "turning under" the stubble lands and preparing pea crops for the same purpose. We wish to emphasize the importance of this process, and, if possible, to induce more of our farmers to practice this excellent way of improving their land, and those who already practice it, to go more extensively into it. To this end we give them the benefit of the observations and experience of others, and quote the following from the *Charlotte Home-Democrat*:

Green manuring is an operation familiar to every American farmer, but, as they do not all grow clover, vetches or Italian rye grass, they will not appreciate the value of manuring with these crops. In France, England and the Northern States the practice is well known, and it depends on effectually covering the vegetable matter turned under the soil in the operation of plowing. When it is intended to use the crop directly for fertilizing the plowing should be done just as the flower is about to open, and when the days are sunny and the soil is dry, in order to facilitate decomposition. Fully three-fourths of the organic matter thus buried has been derived from the atmosphere, and the land so treated obtains its fertility from the even distribution of the nitrogenous crops which are decomposed at a very low but certain rate. Practical men of large experience consider the value of a green crop plowed in as equal to the droppings of cattle which have been fed on three times the quantity. The great fact behind this all-important action is the decomposition of the nitrogenous compounds which yield ammonia and nitric acid, from which nitrates are formed.

### FARMERS' INSTITUTE.

A farmers' institute for Davidson county will be held in Lexington on Tuesday and Wednesday August 30th and 31st. at Finch's Hall.

#### PROGRAMME:

Prayer, by Rev. R. M. Hoyle, of Davidson county; Farming as a business, Dr. J. F. Beall, Davidson county; How to prevent land from washing, W. R. McCuiston, Davidson county; Corn culture, B. F. Bekerdite, Esq., Davidson county; Cotton culture, Capt. C. F. Beall, Davidson county; Small grains, John Dorsett, Esq., Randolph county; Tobacco from seed to barn, G. Walser, Esq., Davidson county; Stock raising, Dr. Joseph Bird, Randolph county; The garden, Capt. L. Hanes, Davidson county; Grasses and clover, Col. C. McDonald, Cabarrus county; Silos and ensilage, Dr. D. W. C. Benbow, Guilford county; The water we drink, Prof. W. H. Pagram, Trinity College; Manures, composting and fertilizers, Dr. C. W. Dabney, jr., Raleigh; The North Carolina State Department, how it protects the farming interests, Col. John Robinson, Raleigh; Farmer organizations, Col. L. L. Polk.

Short after-talks on all the above topics. Every farmer present invited to participate. Meeting interesting from the beginning. Exercises begin at 10 a. m. Tuesday; 9:30 a. m. Wednesday.

Good music! Come early and remain till the close. Dr. D. Reid Parker, of Randolph county, will assist on the floor and in the chair.

I. L. WRIGHT, Chairman.

"After the storm comes the sunshine" is a true adage. For the past week Durham, Oxford, Henderson, Greensboro and Asheville have been alive with enthusiasm over the probability of new railroads. Every mail brought new developments, but every time Raleigh seemed to be ignored; but the *Roanoke News*, true to its country as its majestic river is to the sea, scatters the clouds and leaves us in the brilliant sunshine of hope.

It is rumored that the Wilmington & Weldon Railroad Company will in a short time extend the railroad from Williamston to Jamesville, and that the Jamesville & Washington Railroad Company will then build a branch from Jamesville to Plymouth and that the two will be run in connection with each other. The Wilmington road will then, it is said, extend the Nashville branch to Raleigh and possibly to Durham, thus having an outlet to

deep water at the mouth of Roanoke river, and affording railroad facilities to a section of country much in need of them. When the Scotland Neck branch is built to Greenville, connecting at Bethel with the road from Raleigh to Plymouth, travel and freight from the eastern counties tributary to these roads will have much quicker transportation.

### THE CROPS OF UNION.

I cannot say (like others) that I never saw such crops before, for I think I have seen as good a number of times; but I can say they are good, very good. 'Tis true there are some dry streaks and chintz bug localities, but the recent rains have been general and the improvement is great.

The chintz bug scare in the spring I think will prove a blessing instead of a curse. It caused the farmers to plant more peas than they ever planted before, which crop will be worth much more than the corn that is lost by the bugs.

The farmers have worked as they never worked before. The crops have been made with less expense than heretofore, and upon the whole the prospect for bread is bright. I am of the opinion that if less were said relative to the crops by flying tourists—professional newspaper writers and hungry editors (for news or something else) and more by two or three intelligent, observing farmers of each county in the State, one standpoint from which we judge the crops would be more reliable, and I would be glad to hear from at least one or two from each county.

So far as I am informed, only two or three clubs have been organized in the county. I hope you will come around and stir us up. The time I think has come when the farmers must act, or all is lost. Allow me to say to you, go on with your good work. I believe the masses of the intelligent farmers of the State will stand by and defend you, if required, against all opposition.

V. T. CHEARS.

[FOR THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER.  
MT. HOLLY.]

The Grange Encampment, Farmers' Institute and Fair last week was a success in whatever way it is considered. It was indeed an occasion which is likely to be long remembered in the Western part of the State. The farmers of Gaston and Mecklenburg turned out in large numbers and representatives were there from over twenty other counties, with delegations from some sections of our neighbor South Carolina. The writer was present only Wednesday and Thursday. On the former day there were over seven hundred wagons in camp whilst the railroad sold over two thousand tickets. On the latter day the railroad sold eighteen hundred tickets, whilst the number of wagons in camp has been estimated to be so many as one thousand. The crowd on Wednesday was estimated at five thousand, and on Thursday it could not have been less than six thousand, although the estimates ran up as high as ten thousand. So much for the crowd.

The short comings of the stock division of the Fair was fully compensated for by the splendid exhibitions in the other departments. Mr. McAden's and Mr. Hooper's displays of manufactured goods were superb and won the admiration of every visitor to the grounds. No farmer, in fact, no North Carolinian could visit those fine exhibits without feeling a swelling of pride in his heart that his native State is moving onward and upward in manufacturing enterprise.

Capt. Nat. Atkinson brought from Buncombe, across the mountains, a collection of grasses and grain in the sheaf, forming an exhibit not excelled, if equaled by any other similar display ever made in the State, the State Exposition not excepted. Timothy six feet high, orchard grass five and one-half feet high, other grasses, wheat, oats, rye to correspond.

The exhibit from the Department of agriculture, was, as may be well known to the reader, large and varied, representing the agricultural, industrial and mining possibilities of the State. It attracted much attention from those who came to see, to study and to be benefited.

Dr. S. J. Welsh, of Monroe, exhibited his collection of improved broods of poultry. This exhibit formed one of the chief attractions, the coops being continually attended and surrounded by admiring observers.

The Acme Fibre Company, of Wilmington, exhibited samples of carpet

showing the uses to which the foliage of the long leaf pine may be put. It may be of interest to the reader to have it said here that the carpet is neat and possesses the quality of not taking fire easily.

The display of agricultural implements was fine, as also other displays, all of which did credit to the Fair, which it should be kept in mind was the first ever held in Mt. Holly.

The accommodations were ample. Those who camped brought their own accommodations with them and were consequently independent of hotels and restaurants. Those who wished to do so could take rooms and board at Charlotte, the round trip from the Fair to Charlotte being only 20 cents, the trains going and coming every three hours.

On Wednesday and Thursday Maj. S. M. Finger, State Superintendent of Public Instruction, Dr. H. B. Battle, Assistant State Chemist at the State Agricultural Department, Col. L. L. Polk, Editor of THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER; Col. A. P. Butler, Commissioner of Agriculture of South Carolina, was not present. His address, however, was read. Col. John Robinson, Commissioner of Agriculture of this State, Hon. Walter L. Steele, Col. T. M. Holt, Hon. W. H. Kitchen, President Kemp P. Battle, of the State University, W. R. Williams, Master of the State Grange; Dr. Lewis, of Raleigh, Mr. Linly, of Greensboro, Capt. Nat. Atkinson, of Asheville, Mr. W. S. Primrose, of Raleigh, and others delivered addresses which were distinguished for their high standard of excellence. Col. Polk's address was made without previous preparation, but he sustained his reputation as a speaker. He spoke about one hour and talked in plain terms, encouraging the farmers to study their interest, to vindicate their rights and to improve their condition. He also made a short talk for THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER. If he succeeded while there as he was about the time the writer renewed his subscription, he went away from Mt. Holly with a long list of subscribers. He doubtless feels grateful to those people who gave him such a pleasant reception, and whose fraternal regards were supplemented by encouragement in a substantial way in the good work of building up the agricultural interests of the State.

The address to which it may be proper to make a special allusion was the one delivered at the opening of the exercises on Thursday, it being the day given to the Patrons of Husbandry, delivered by W. R. Williams, Master of the State Grange, the subject being "organization of farmers." Mr. Williams possesses oratorical ability of a high order, and on this occasion had complete command of himself and made perfect use of his power as a speaker. He spoke of the Grange, representing it as the organization which has stood for over twenty years in the cause of agriculture and in the interest of the farmer. He showed the good it had accomplished and the good work it has in hand now. His allusion to the press was really a tribute, as the friend of the farmer it ought to have been heard by every editor and farmer in the State. The Grange in truth is the true friend of the press, and the press is the best friend of the Grange. The Grange encourages its members to read the newspapers and keep posted on every question agitating the minds of the people. The Grange aims to educate the farmer, and involves the aid of the press in doing it.

There was no selfishness in the address which reflected the true principles of the Grange. The Patrons of Husbandry was held up as the best organization for farmers, but if they could not join the Grange, then let them organize in some other way, but by all means farmers should organize and co-operate. There should be unity of purpose, and there should be unity of action. The motto of the Grange is, "Justice to all; injustice to none." It should be the motto of every organization. The aim of the Grange is to build up, and not to tear down. It makes no war on any interest that makes no war on the farmers' interest. It antagonizes no trade, no profession, no classification of men. It is battling for the rights of the farmer. Those rights it will secure by the help of the farmers. We have not quoted the words of the address, but have given the impression made on our mind, while he was delivering it. But we have written enough for this time. THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER has our best wishes.

Few men are open to conviction, but the majority of men are open to persuasion. —Goethe